

Torrance, California
September 14, 1943

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, September 14, 1943, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll; those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 24, 1943; and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 27, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Boy Scouts of Troop 241, expressing their gratitude to the City Council for use of a portion of the Torrance Victory Garden plot. The communication was ordered filed.

A communication was read from the South Bay Beach and Highway Association, requesting a contribution of \$25.00 per year toward the support of this group.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be held over for further study by the Council. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Fred Blake, Park Superintendent, advising that he expects to lose the services of John Waugh, an experienced power mower operator, unless he is granted an increase in pay over that of "Park Maintenance Man"; and stating that this position would be difficult to fill at the present time.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Doak Aircraft Company, advising that the War Production Board had denied their application for priority assistance on material required to install a sprinkler system in their factory.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be placed on file for future reference. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci said he thought we should insist on having the sprinkler system installed as soon as possible.

Engineer Jain suggested that perhaps, if some pressure was brought to bear on the War Production Board, this priority might be granted as sprinkler systems had been installed in other buildings.

Councilman Powell moved that Councilman Babcock's motion be amended, and that Engineer Jain be authorized to contact the proper Government Agency, in an effort to obtain the necessary materials for the Doak Aircraft Company to install a sprinkler system. Councilman Babcock agreed to this amendment to his motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Doak Aircraft Company, requesting the City to extend the existing sewer line on Abalone Avenue a distance of approximately 125 feet further south in order to connect to their new building, which is being constructed at the south end of their plant, and will contain additional rest rooms, wash rooms and first aid facilities.

Mayor McGuire asked Engineer Jain for his opinion on this matter. Engineer Jain replied that such an extension would cost approximately \$350.00 to construct.

After a short discussion Councilman Powell moved that the request of the Doak Aircraft Company for an extension of 125 ft. to the existing sewer line on Abalone Avenue be referred to the City Engineer for investigation and report at an adjourned meeting of the City Council, to be held on Friday, September 17, 1943, at 4:45 P.M. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Doak Aircraft Company, requesting the improvement of Cabrillo Avenue, south of Carson Street, in order to provide a suitable entrance and exit to their plant by way of Cabrillo Avenue and Plaza del Amo, thus diverting some of the heavy traffic which now must travel by way of Abalone Avenue. Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for study and report. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the D & M Machine Works, requesting the City to improve the road condition on Cabrillo Avenue, south of Carson Street to Plaza del Amo, upon the completion of the improvement on Plaza del Amo, which is now under way.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer for study and his recommendation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain, with reference to a letter from the Doak Aircraft Company requesting possible financial aid in the matter of installing sidewalks, curbs and gutters in front of their property on Abalone Avenue. Mr. Jain advised that he had prepared an estimate of the cost of the proposed improvements, which amounts to approximately \$700.00, consisting of approximately 250 ft. of sidewalk, curb and gutter, in order to connect existing construction with the new construction in front of the Doak Aircraft Company. Mr. Jain recommended that, if the Council wishes to aid in this project, Doak Aircraft Company be authorized to proceed with the work and the Council make a definite commitment as to the amount they would contribute, thus eliminating delays in securing priorities, advertising for bids, etc., which would be necessary if the City performed the work.

Engineer Jain explained that the communication from the Doak Aircraft Company requested the City to contribute the cost of connecting the old improvement, on Abalone Street, with their new work; that the City's share of the work would cost around \$700.00, compared with an expenditure by the Doak Aircraft Company of approximately \$1100.00.

Councilman Powell said he thought the matter should be investigated to see if the City could legally justify the expenditure; that he was willing to co-operate if such an expenditure could be legally justified.

Following some further discussion, Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Council for study and possible report at the Adjourned meeting to be held on September 17.

Councilman Powell, with the consent of Councilman Babcock, amended the motion by adding that the City Attorney be requested to render a written opinion as to whether it would be legal for the City to install this sidewalk. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, relative to a recent newspaper article stating that the citizens of WALTERIA were desirous of withdrawing from the City of Torrance; and advising that the WALTERIA Civic Organization has no connection with such a movement.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be filed for record. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1604

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING EASEMENT FROM
THE PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY,
AND DIRECTING OFFICERS TO EXECUTE THE
SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1604 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1605

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF GRANT DEED TO THE PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO HAVE SAME RECORDED.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1605 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1606

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1606 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1607

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CANCEL CERTAIN 1915 ACT ASSESSMENTS SCHEDULED FOR COLLECTION ON THE 1943-44 TAX ROLL.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1607 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Harold M. Frane be employed as a Patrolman on the Police force, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, effective September 10, 1943, as a War Emergency Employee.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Mr. Chas. E. Conner, Postmaster, in reference to the establishing of "Loading Zones" in the middle of the blocks, in the central down-town area, in order to facilitate the handling of parcel post mail, as well as commercial loading and unloading.

Police Chief Stroh advised that the Postmaster had been to see him about this matter, explaining that it would eliminate considerable time now lost in having to park a considerable distance from the point of delivery and the necessity of locking and unlocking the delivery truck each time a delivery was made. Chief Stroh stated that he believed this would be a good idea, and suggested ten or fifteen minute loading zones of sufficient length to park one vehicle, in the middle of each block.

After some further discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Ordinance Committee of the Council, together with the Chief of

Police, work out a system for the loading and unloading of trucks within the City, and present this to the City Council at its next regular meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell presented a "Notification" from the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission, that Walter Thompson, who had been sent to Los Angeles to take the Civil Service Examination for Patrolman, had been disqualified because of his age.

Chief Stroh explained that Mr. Thompson, who is 54 years of age, has had twenty years police experience, but was disqualified because the age limit stated in the Bulletins announcing examinations for Patrolmen, under the Simplified Examination Procedure for Torrance and other contract cities, is 21 to 45 Years. The Chief stated that the Sheriff's office has an age limit of 55 years, and recommended that the County be requested to raise the age limit to 55 years for the City of Torrance.

After some discussion Councilman Babcock moved that the Clerk of the Torrance Civil Service Board be authorized to notify the County Civil Service Commission that the City of Torrance wishes to make the age limits for Patrolmen, from 21 to 55, during the War Emergency. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell advised that The Peace Officers' Association of the State of California was holding their 23rd Annual Conference at San Francisco, on October 11, 12 and 13, 1943, and that a number of matters of vital importance were included on their program.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief of Police, John Stroh, and Judge Willett be authorized to attend this Convention with expenses paid. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci stated he had received several complaints about puncture weeds in the City of Torrance, and asked Engineer Jain about this. Mr. Jain replied that this matter was being taken care of; and Mr. Gascoigne, Superintendent of Streets, advised that his Department had already removed a couple of truck loads of these weeds.

Councilman Cucci advised that he believed a very dangerous and hazardous condition existed on Border Avenue, in the vicinity of Double Street, due to the solid parking of automobiles along this narrow street, and that it would be practically impossible for fire equipment to get through.

Chief Stroh stated that in his opinion the only way to eliminate this congestion would be to prohibit the parking of cars on one side of the street.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to prepare plans and specifications for the grading and surfacing of Crenshaw Blvd., Cabrillo Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue, and to advertise for bids on these projects.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that a resolution be passed authorizing the expenditure of $\frac{1}{4}$ gasoline tax money now available for streets of Major Importance; said funds to be used on Crenshaw Avenue, whereupon Councilman Hitchcock moved the adoption of:

RESOLUTION NO. 1608

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZ-
ING THE EXPENDITURE OF $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ GAS TAX
FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE FOR STREETS
OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$60.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of forty tons of crushed rock for the Street Department stock pile. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$200.00 be made for the purchase of a dump-truck body for City trucks. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00 be authorized, for construction of a dry well at 231st Street and Narbonne Avenue. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00 be authorized, for construction of two dry wells at Cravens Avenue and El Prado, to handle drainage from the City Parks. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock advised that the City Engineer had requested authorization for the expenditure of not to exceed \$1000.00 for traffic stripe painting; said work to be done by contractor; and that the Council advise the streets on which they want the "Beaded" or reflectorized stripe, which costs approximately twice the amount of ordinary stripe.

After a short discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that this matter be referred to the Council for further study. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$97.29 be made for the purchase of four inch and six inch sewer pipe for the City Stock Pile. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Howard M. Lucas be employed as a Teamster, at a salary of \$165.00 per month, effective September 1, 1943, as a War Emergency employee. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to attend the 21st Annual Convention of Building Inspectors to be held in San Francisco, October 5th and 6th, 1943, with expenses paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock advised that Engineer Jain has requested that the Council designate the streets on which it is desired to expend the \$812.07, which was allocated by the County Road Department from the Post-War Planning Account; and suggested this matter be referred to the Council for further study.

Councilman Powell called attention to the fact that two or three members of the City Planning Commission have resigned or are not functioning, and stated that he believed appointments should be made to fill these vacancies; whereupon Councilman Powell moved that Mayor McGuire be authorized to fill the vacancies.

Mayor McGuire asked if the WALTERIA Civic Organization wished to recommend someone from their community in the event Mr. Jesse Crowther was no longer able to serve on this Commission.

Mr. Slonecker replied that they would like to suggest someone, but if it was not contrary to the Ordinance they would like to have Mr. Crowther continue on the Board.

Mayor McGuire moved that Engineers Russell L. Parry, and Walter C. Silence, of the Fire Department, who act as Captains in the absence of the regular Captains, be given a raise of \$10.00 per month each, effective July 1, 1943, and to continue until further orders. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell called attention to the fact that Mr. George G. Strong, one of the temporary Firemen hadn't received the raise that had been requested for him, and didn't know whether this was a mistake or an oversight.

Mayor McGuire stated they would look into this matter and it would be taken up at the adjourned meeting next Friday, September 17th.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$741.08, including tax, be authorized for the purchase of thirty 1" Water Meters-str. reading cu. ft., no connections, from the Neptune Meter Company. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$592.86, including tax, be authorized for the purchase of twenty-four 1" Water Meters-Str. reading cu. ft., no connections, from the Hersey Manufacturing Company. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$220.37, including tax, be authorized for the purchase of galv. nipples and ells, meter couplings, service stops and lead connections complete, for use on housing projects within the City. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call Vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

